

“#8, this mandate is a recent addition. In 1997, the Department of Education (RIDE) delivered this mandate that became RI CDHH’s law in 1999. RIDE conducted a strategic planning retreat and came up with the mission statement and principles of learning for deaf and hard of hearing students in the school system. The RIDE guided the stakeholders to develop the strategic plans. The stakeholders were made up of various groups: parents, teachers, counselors, consumers, community leaders, advocates, and a few representatives from RISD. Their idea was to ensure that the deaf and hard of hearing students have the maximized learning environment using many ways such as visual communication and take advantage of support services.

Since 1999, after the legislation was amended to add this mandate, the RI CDHH acts like a watchdog agency to check with schools to see if they adhere the federal laws and follow through the strategic plans that were supposed to be implemented. If schools did not meet or implement the strategic plans, the RI CDHH would work with them to make things happen.”

(Translated in American Sign Language by Steven A. Florio)



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